

Illegal trade of animals and birds

*56. SHRI SANJAY RAUT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that large number of animals and birds are illegally being transported by trains to various destinations in the country;

(b) if so, how many such cases had been brought to book during the last one year; and

(c) the strict action Government had taken or propose to take against this illegal trade?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) There are no reports of illegal transportation of animals and birds by train for the last two years.

(c) Necessary instructions have been given to all concerned, including the Railway Board, regarding the strict enforcement of Transport of Animals (Amendment) Rules, 2001.

Dengue prevention measures in the country

*57. SHRI RAJKUMAR DHOOT: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is fact that Government could not foresee and prevent dengue menace in the country;

(b) the number of persons affected positively and those died in different States of dengue by now due to inadequate arrangements in Government hospitals; and

(c) the steps being taken to prevent recurrence of dengue in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (DR. ANBUMANI RAMDOSS): (a) and (b) Dengue is an endemic and acute epidemic prone disease which occurs every year with upsurge in the number of cases during monsoon and post monsoon months. Dengue occurs because of many factors such as increased population growth and unplanned urbanization, inadequate waste management, deficient water supply

management including water scarcity and irregular water supply, inadequate entomological surveillance for predicting vector build up, spread of disease from urban to peri-urban and rural areas on account of increased population movement, increased global travel, susceptibility of the community to dengue and chikungunya viruses, increased distribution and density of vector mosquito — *Aedes aegypti*.

Government of India had been taking timely pre[^]monsoon actions like issuing advisories and guidelines to endemic states regularly before the transmission season, monitoring the epidemiological situation of the disease and suggesting remedial measures so that advance action for prevention and control of any potential outbreaks could be taken by the States.

Government hospitals were fully equipped for diagnosis and treatment of dengue cases.

It may, therefore, be incorrect to say that the Government could not foresee and prevent dengue menace in the country.

The number of persons affected and deaths due to dengue reported by different state are given in the Statement. [Refer to the statement appended to the Answer to Starred Question 50 Part (a)]

(c) The Central and the State Governments have taken following steps:

- * The Government of India is continually monitoring the Dengue and Chikungunya situation right from the first reporting of cases in states.
- * Detailed guidelines and advisories for prevention and control of these diseases have been sent to all affected states.
- * Intensive Behaviour Change Communication activities have been undertaken through print and electronic media, interpersonal communication, outdoor publicity as well as intersectoral collaboration with civil society organizations (NGOs/CBOs/FBOs/Self Help Group), Panchayati Raj Institutes.
- * Government of India has supplied larvicides and adulticides to affected states for control of Dengue and Chikungunya.
- * For advanced diagnosis, the Government of India has identified Apex Referral institutions and sentinel centres for regular surveillance of Dengue and Chikungunya fever cases.

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RAJYA SABHA

* Monitoring and supervision are regularly undertaken to review situation and provide technical assistance to affected States.

Effect of climate change on agriculture

†58. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD:

SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:

Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that clear indications of change in climate are being noticed in the country and this has begun affecting the agriculture of the country adversely;

(b) if so, the reaction of Government thereto;

(c) whether Government have undertaken any study about the adverse effects on the agriculture due to climatic changes; and

(d) if so, the details of the report in this regard?

THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) to (d) No clear-cut confirmed findings are available. However, intensity of the extreme events like drought, flood, heat waves, cold waves, cyclonic incidents etc. has increased. Preliminary studies taken up under the network programme on climate change sponsored by Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) at CRIDA indicate that negative departure of annual rainfall (over the period of 1960-2004) has been noticed in some northern part of the country comprising parts of Western Uttar Pradesh, West-Madhya Pradesh, Haryana, Uttaranchal, Himachal Pradesh and entire North Eastern States and in some part of the Southern Peninsula covering South Telangana, parts of Rayalaseema, Vidarbha and Tamil Nadu.

Further, the rainfall analysis carried out at 1140 stations located in the rainfed regions of the country has shown that 73 percent of the stations are subjected to short-term fluctuations (less than 7 years) in annual rainfall. The increase in minimum temperature by 4 to 5 degree Celsius over its normal value coinciding with the reproductive stage of wheat crops during 2005-06 rabi season considerably affected the wheat production. As per information available with the India Meteorological Department (IMD), the surface air temperatures over the Indian subcontinent show a slight warming trend by about 0.4 Degree Celsius during the past 100 years. This warming trend is however not uniform either in time or in space.

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.